

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 AF-10 ARA-10 EA-10
CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00
NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 ACDA-12 OMB-01
TRSE-00 MCT-01 HA-05 SSM-03 /137 W
-----000602 260140Z /70

R 260017Z MAR 78
FM USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0295
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
AMEMBASSY PRAGUE
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
AMEMBASSY WARSAW

C O N F I D E N T I A L USUN NEW YORK 01107

E.O. 11652:GDS
TAGS: MARR, MOPS, IS, LE, SOV
SUBJECT: SOUTH LEBANON: SOVIET PROBES ON UNIFIL

REF: USUN 1069

1. UNDER SECRETARY GENERAL GUYER IN COURSE OF CONVERSATION
MARCH 25 ON UNIFIL PROBLEMS BROUGHT UP WITH AMB. LEONARD
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THE AMBIGUOUS SIGNALS THAT UN HAS BEEN RECEIVING FROM
EASTERN EUROPEANS INDICATING INTEREST OF SOVIET BLOC
COUNTRIES IN UNIFIL AND UNHAPPINESS THAT (EXCEPT FOR
ROMANIA) THEY HAVE NOT BEEN ASKED IF THEY WISH TO
PARTICIPATE. GUYER SAID HE MADE INDIRECT
EXPLORATORY QUERY OF SOVIET MISSION MARCH 24 AND RECEIVED
NEGATIVE RESPONSE: GUYER DID NOT ELABORATE. POLES

VOLUNTEERED AT LUNCHEON IN GUYER'S HONOR LAST WEEK THAT THEY WOULD NOT TAKE PART IN UNIFIL. POLISH PERM REP JAROSZEK LATER MADE A POINT OF SAYING POLES HAVE NOT BEEN "OFFICIALLY REQUESTED" TO PARTICIPATE.

2. ACCORDING TO GUYER, WALDHEIM'S VIEW REMAINS THAT, SINCE SOVIETS AND CZECHS ABSTAINED ON SC RESOLUTION AND SINCE THEY HAVE INDICATED INTENTION NOT TO PAY UNIFIL ASSESSMENT, UN SHOULD NOT ASK ONE OF THEIR GROUP TO TAKE PART. GUYER ADDED THAT HE HAS, HOWEVER, BEEN MULLING OVER POSSIBILITY OF APPROACHING CZECH DELEGATION TO MAKE POINT THAT EQUITABLE GEOGRAPHICAL REPRESENTATION IS IMPORTANT FACTOR IN UNIFIL COMPOSITION, BUT CZECHOSLOVAKIA ABSTAINED ON SC RES AND, OF COURSE, PARTICIPATION WOULD NECESSARILY BRING WITH IT EXPECTATION OF FULL PAYMENT OF EASTERN EUROPEAN ASSESSMENTS. TO LEONARD'S QUERY ON NEED FOR MINIMIZING ISRAELI REACTION, GUYER SPECULATED SOVIET BLOC CONTINGENT, SUCH AS POLISH, COULD BE USED IN LOGISTICS (UNEF/UNDOF ARRANGEMENT), OR KEPT AS FAR FROM ISRAELI BORDER AS POSSIBLE. (WE HAD UNDERSTOOD THAT POLES, IN ANY EVENT, ARE STRETCHED TO THEIR LIMIT BY THEIR PRESENT LOGISTIC ROLE.)

3. GUYER ENDED DISCUSSIONS BY NOTING THAT, WHILE EAST EUROPEANS MIGHT WISH TO BE INVITED TO PARTICIPATE ONLY IN ORDER TO REFUSE, IF THEY WERE TO BE ASKED THE
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UN SHOULD HAVE A CONTINGENCY PLAN READY IN EVENT THEY ANSWERED IN THE AFFIRMATIVE.

4. COMMENT: WE FEEL WALDHEIM'S POSITION IS ESSENTIALLY CORRECT. IN LIGHT OF SOVIET ATTITUDE DURING SC DEBATE, WE DO NOT PERCEIVE MUCH LIKELIHOOD THAT THEY WILL REALLY PRESS THE UN TO ASK THEM TO PARTICIPATE. EMBASSY TEL AVIV MAY WISH TO CONSIDER WHICH EASTERN EUROPEAN NATION OTHER THAN ROMANIA MIGHT BE LEAST OBJECTIONABLE TO ISRAEL. A POLISH LOGISTICS CONTINGENT STATIONED IN TYRE IF AS EFFICIENT AND CORRECT AS POLISH UNIT IN UNEF COULD HAVE ADVANTAGES --BOTH POLITICAL AND FINANCIAL--FOR UNIFIL OPERATIONS, ASSUMING POLES COULD, IN FACT, SUPPLY IT. LEONARD

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